

# Committee Aids Rights Fight in Monroe, N.C.

By John Thayer

In Monroe, destined to go down in history or infamy as the North Carolina town where an eight and nine-year-old Negro boy were sent to reform school because one had

been kissed by a seven-year-old white girl, the even tenor of Jim Crow justice was jolted on Dec. 19. On that day a white man was arraigned on charges of attempted rape of a Negro woman. Local white supremacists never expected such a thing to happen, local authorities had indicated their intention to reduce the charge or drop it altogether. But their plans went awry. Whether a lily-white jury in this Ku Klux Klan-infested county will con-

vict is another question, but merely bringing the assailant to trial is a victory for the Negro people of Union County.

Actually, this is the second success registered by the militant NAACP chapter of Union County. A week previous the eviction of Mrs. Thompson and her children — solely because she is the mother of the Negro lad allegedly kissed by the white girl — was prevented. While outside the South such a thing may seem small potatoes, it looms large in the Jim Crow pattern of life in Monroe. This was the first time in memory that a Negro tenant had contested an eviction order of a white landlord. On this occasion, Mrs. Thompson with Conrad Lynn of the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice as counsel, demonstrated that the eviction notice did not comply with the most elementary legal requirements. The audience at this local history-making hearing consisted of Union County NAACP President Robert F. Williams and Dr. A. E. Perry, the vice-president and a delegation of Negro citizens.

## LOW BAIL

The assailant of Mrs. Mary Ruth Reid, mother of five children and seven months pregnant with her sixth when attacked and brutally beaten, was arrested only because a white tenant-farm woman neighbor called the police. When Medlin

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## NEXT WEEK'S MILITANT

Our next issue will go to press two days later than usual because of New Year's holiday.

## N.Y. Meeting Raises \$258 for Carolina Cases

NEW YORK, Dec. 22 — A meeting held at the Militant Labor Forum tonight heard a gripping account by attorney Conrad Lynn of the developments in Monroe, N.C., surrounding the "Carolina Kissing Case." (See story on case this page and interview with Lynn page 4.)

The meeting demonstrated there are good prospects for mobilizing strong support behind the newly-formed Committee to Combat Racial Injustice in whose behalf the meeting was held. The meeting was called on six days notice to help provide urgently needed funds for the committee. Despite the short notice, limited advertising and frigid weather, more than 100 Negroes and whites, including a large number of youth, turned out.

Audience response to Lynn's eloquent plea for active participation in the fight was indicated by a contribution of \$258 to aid the work of the committee.

## Victims of Racial Injustice



David "Fuzzy" Simpson (left) and James Hanover Thompson sent to North Carolina reformatory because seven-year-old white girl allegedly kissed them. Boys are 8 and 9 respectively. The picture was taken recently at reformatory.

## President Won't Intervene In Carolina 'Kissing Case'

DEC. 22 — President Eisenhower has refused to concern himself with the case of James Hanover Thompson and David "Fuzzy" Simpson, the two Negro children committed to a reformatory in Monroe, North Carolina, because one of them had been kissed by a seven-year-old white girl. (See story this page.) This is in keeping with the Administration's stubborn refusal to use the powers of the federal government to enforce the Constitutional rights of Southern Negroes.

According to a Presidential aide, the two children — who can be kept in the reformatory until they are 21 years old — were "committed for indefinite terms for care, education, and rehabilitation." Indeed, it would seem according to this official, that the State of North Carolina had done young Hanover and Simpson a favor!

White House refusal to intervene in the shocking violation of justice came in reply to a demand for federal action by Robert F. Williams, chairman of the Union County (N.C.) NAACP.

## WIRES PRESIDENT

On Nov. 12 Williams sent a telegram to Eisenhower describing the wholesale violations of civil rights in Monroe and asking: "Please tell me, Mr. President, when Negroes may expect your Justice Department to introduce the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to this social jungle called Dixie?"

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am advised by the Department of Justice that the information in your telegram to the President relating to the recent commitment in Monroe, North Carolina, of two Negro boys as juvenile delinquents indicates no violation of any federal law.

As much as the President deplors any instance of this nature and is constantly striving toward the time-honored principle of American equality and justice, it is not within the purview of his office to act officially upon such cases. I am sure the lawyers for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are familiar with this fact.

The laws of many states provide procedures whereby juveniles may be committed for indefinite terms for care, education and rehabilitation. Inasmuch as such commitment is not regarded as a conviction of a crime, the procedures followed in a criminal trial do not ordinarily apply. If, in this case, the commitment was not in accordance with North Carolina law, the parties should seek a remedy in the North Carolina courts.

## Steve Grattan Summoned by Eastland Group

On Dec. 16, Stephen Grattan, for 40 years a member of the International Typographical Union, was served with a subpoena to appear before the Eastland Internal Security subcommittee on Dec. 17. The subpoena was dated Dec. 12, just two days after the New York newspaper strike began. He had 24 hours to get a lawyer (Louis B. Boudin) and prepare for the hearings in Washington.

The committee is investigating alleged "subversion" in mass communications in New York. Grattan, who is a printer and not a writer, appeared before an executive session Dec. 17. Questioned about his political affiliations by committee attorney Sourwine, Grattan refused to answer, invoking the First and Fifth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

He answered a question about his membership in Local 6, ITU, in the same way. Grattan says, "I feel that this was the reason for calling me. This harassment was due to the publishers' lockout in New York."

Grattan, who is 61 years old, was twice chairman of the Daily News chapel of Local 6. He is well known as an independent socialist. He is secretary of the American Forum for Socialist Education. "I'll tell my union about my political affiliations but not Eastland," he said.

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# 'Bleakest Detroit Xmas Since Depression Days'

## Ranks Firm in N.Y. News Strike

By Lillian Kiesel

NEW YORK, Dec. 22 — The strike of 2,500 newspaper delivermen in this city is now in its third week. Nine major newspapers are shut down. Times, Daily News, Herald Tribune, Mirror, World Telegram and Sun, Journal American, Post, Long Island Daily Press and Long Island Star-Journal. They all stopped publishing on Dec. 12.

Three days earlier, the members of the Newspaper and Mail Deliverers Union (independent) voted 877 to 772 to reject a \$7-a-week, two-year package offer of the employers. They overruled a 14 to 3 majority of the union's negotiating committee which favored accepting the offer. Following the membership vote, the negotiating committee was augmented by the ten-man executive board, the majority of whose members had voted against the proposed contract.

## CALL THAT A BENEFIT?

The central issue in the strike is to prevent a \$7-a-week package contract signed by the Newspaper Guild from setting a pattern for the entire industry. It was signed the very week the deliverers strike began. The newspaper publishers want nine other unions in the industry to accept a contract similar to the Newspaper Guild's. As applied to the deliverers, it calls for a \$7-a-week increase over a two-year span. The only fringe benefit the deliverers would get is a three-day paid leave in case of death in a worker's family and certain contractual guarantees. As one striker told me, "So I get three days' pay if somebody in my family dies. Is that something to look forward to?"

Newspaper deliverers are among the lowest paid in the newspaper industry. Their basic wage is \$103.82 for a 40-hour week. Consequently they are demanding a raise of \$9 a week plus \$1 in welfare, pension and other fringe benefits.

Foremost among their other demands is a reduction of working hours to 35 with no loss in take-home pay. The deliverers' union is the only one among the ten unions in the

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## Same Problem a Decade Later



(Above cartoon is by Laura Gray, Militant staff artist who died last Jan. 11. It is reprinted from Militant, Dec. 27, 1948.)

## I-H Pickets Cold to Co. Offers

CHICAGO — At a union meeting, Dec. 12, 4,500 striking International-Harvester workers in this area showed no sign of wavering after nearly five weeks of the "cold war" on the picket line. And brother, it's been freezing!

One example of the prevailing high morale was demonstrated by the contribution of several thousand dollars by United Auto Workers locals representing the various I-H plants for a kiddy Christmas cheer for the strikers' families. Throughout the chain of Harvester plants, the workers are solid. About 36,500 workers are on strike nationally.

"What are you striking for?" In mock astonishment, this is the question International-Harvester asked the workers in a letter distributed to the 35 shop facilities of the I-H empire.

"It is unfortunately true that

there has been no progress [in negotiations]. But it is not lack of effort on the Company's part. Twice in the last eight days we have substantially liberalized our position in a sincere effort to achieve a settlement." The company then lists the various demands to which they have made concessions.

## A WET XMAS

But what about the items still in dispute? These, the company states, "... involve the most important improvements we have sought in order to assure that our company can be competitive." There it is — black on white and unvarnished. The company's interests come first. Workers' needs don't count. What counts is the company's lavish profits, which is what I-H means when it talks about its "competitive position."

"We know," says Harvester,

"that the present strike called by the UAW is working a financial hardship on our employees." "Union negotiators will wear boots to keep their feet dry," replies the union's Dec. 16 strike bulletin. "The floor will be wet with the crocodile tears ... shed by the company ... Christmas is coming. They are so sorry for us."

In the eyes of the workers, the company is playing a tricky game. This week company officials led the union to believe that they were ready to settle on a fairly generous basis. At least that's what they said. But when the "concessions" were put in writing, the negotiating committee found them full of jokers. The union had to reject the whole package. Striking workers now believe that the company is deliberately stalling a settlement until after the holidays. This will save I-H

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## 200,000 Unemployed Have No Prospect of Jobs in Auto Industry

This year, Christmas in the Detroit area "will be the bleakest since Depression days," says the Dec. 20 Business Week. Although auto companies, except for strike-bound Chrysler, produced at the highest rate for the year in December, 200,000 people were jobless in the metropolitan area. That is more than twice as many as a year ago and

comes to 13% of the labor force. Of the total, 75,000 have exhausted their unemployment compensation benefits "and have had only sporadic work for two or three years." (Emphasis added.) The rest face run-out of benefits in weeks or months.

## N.Y. Parents Win Twice in School Fight

NEW YORK — An important victory was won by two Negro parents, Mrs. Bernice Skipwith and Mrs. Charles Rector, in their refusal to send their children to segregated schools when Domestic Relations Court Justice Justine W. Polier ruled against the New York Board of Education which had charged the parents with neglect. Justice Polier found the parents had proven the schools their children had attended were inferior and the subject of racial discrimination.

Her ruling declared, "These parents have the constitutional guaranteed right to elect no education for their children rather than subject them to discriminatory, inferior education." She said the parents' action was "understandable for the sake of their children and for the tens of thousands of other children like this, who have been unfairly deprived of equal education."

In the Chrysler set-up, employment at Dodge Main plant has dropped from a two-shift 20,600 in March 1957 to a one-shift 7,100 today. Meanwhile, daily production rates have fallen only from 950 to 550. At the root of the struggle of the Dodge Local 3 unemployed to ban overtime at the Main plant is the fact that the company finds it cheaper to pay overtime than increase the work force for an indefinite period.

## PRODUCTIVITY JOBLESS

These workers, says Business Week, "could be classed as the first large group of victims of 'productivity unemployment.'" There'll be more to come. What is happening in Detroit is only a forerunner of what may hit other industries in a few years. Auto's permanent jobless are stuck. They can't migrate to any place where there are new, big employment opportunities, for there are no such places in the U.S. They can't turn to agriculture. Farming itself is being operated with a constantly shrinking work force.

To meet the crisis, the UAW top officialdom has advanced a piddling program. Absent from its demands are those which must be key to a major improvement in the unemployment problem. These demands are an end to compulsory overtime, while there are workers who are jobless; an end to speed-up; and above all, 30-for-40 — the 30-hour week at 40 hours pay.

## Road to Labor's Political Independence

By Murry Weiss

The Communist Party and social democratic leaderships say that fielding independent socialist tickets harms labor-party prospects because it runs counter to the policy of the official labor movement. By opposing official labor policy, they argue, socialists isolate themselves from the mainstream of the labor and Negro movements. Why shouldn't socialists oppose the official policy of the labor movement? These policies have been foisted on the unions by the bureaucratic tops. They represent the interests of the labor bureaucracy and not of the working class.

The labor bureaucracy is for the cold war and the witch hunt; it is for capitalism and against socialism; it is for the Democratic Party and against a Labor Party; it is for class collaboration and against class struggle; it is for dictatorial bureaucratic rule in the unions and against union democracy; above all, it is for looting the union treasuries to support a privileged, parasitic crew of

time-serving, incompetent fakery whose idea of a program of action is a long vacation-meeting of the executive board in Florida. Should socialists even consider abandoning the fight against the bureaucracy and its policies for fear of getting isolated from the mainstream?

When you come right down to it, what logic is there in maintaining organizations like the Communist Party and the Socialist Party-Social Democratic Federation if the imperative of socialist politics is not to become "isolated from the mainstream"? The official labor movement does not approve of the Communist Party; it barely tolerates the SP-SDF. Why not draw the logical conclusion and dissolve these parties and get deeper into the "mainstream"?

## THE HUSKS REMAIN

Actually, the liquidation of socialist parties is exactly what this "mainstream" politics leads to. What we have before us today in the CP and SP-SDF is the hollowed out shells of what used to be political parties of the socialist working class and

then, alas, became the creatures of class collaboration politics. Parties that claim to be socialist but follow a policy which imprisons them in the parties of capitalism not only fail to remain socialist but cannot even help promote a Labor Party.

Take the experience of the 1958 elections in New York and Ohio. In New York, the labor bureaucracy backed the candidates of the Democratic Party who ran on a capitalist program of cold war and witch hunt, spiced with some demagogic reform promises. The Independent Socialist Party, representing a coalition of socialist parties in this election, was forthright in its opposition to the cold war and placed the blame for the war danger squarely on American capitalism.

In addition to outlining a series of measures to combat the capitalist recession, the ISP opposed Jim Crow in all phases of New York life and exposed the records of the two capitalist parties on this issue. The ISP took a stand for every vic-

tim of the witch hunt and against every measure on the law books which abrogated civil liberties. Finally, the ISP urged labor and the Negro people to break with the capitalist parties and form a party of their own.

What was the best way to promote a labor-party movement in this situation: to support the Democratic Party candidates endorsed by the labor bureaucracy, or to support the ISP?

In a period when the Harlem community and tens of thousands of unionists manifested strong dissatisfaction with the New York Democratic Party machine, the ISP fought an all-out battle with the Tammany bosses for the right to be on the ballot — and licked Tammany Hall in this dramatic contest! Wasn't support of the ISP's ballot fight the elementary duty of anyone claiming to favor a Labor Party?

## BROADCASTS MESSAGE

The ISP candidates — despite the loss of time, money and energy in the ballot fight —

carried the message that labor should build its own party to hundreds of thousands of people in New York State. They stressed it over radio and television; proclaimed it at street meetings, union locals and community organizations; and popularized it through mass mailings and distributions of huge quantities of leaflets.

Instead of supporting this campaign the "mainstream" spokesmen of the SP-SDF devoted themselves to red-baiting attacks. In addition, they threatened to sue the ISP with a legal gimmick which they offered as a means for getting the ISP off the ballot.

Meanwhile, the other "mainstream" navigators — the Communist Party leaders — divided their time between slandering the ISP and writing mealy-mouthed editorials in the Worker explaining how they really didn't endorse Harriman, yet, since we must beware of becoming isolated, and since labor was for Harriman, perhaps the

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# J. Edgar Hoover's Flock of Stool Pigeons

By Henry Gitano  
(Third of a series.)

A challenge to the FBI's glorification of the informer was hurled by the late Pulitzer Prize winner Bernard de Voie. In his department, "The Easy Chair" in Harper's magazine, he served "Due Notice to the FBI." "I say it has gone too far. We are dividing into the hunted and the hunters . . . This notice is posted in the court-house square. I will not discuss anyone in private with any government investigator. I like a country where it's nobody's damned business what magazines anyone reads, what he thinks, whom he has cocktails with. I like a country where we do not have to stuff the chimney against listening ears and where what we say does not go into the FBI files . . . I like a country where no college-trained flatfoot collect memoranda

about us . . ." (October 1949 issue.)

The FBI pursues its sleuthing operations right into the White House. This was documented by Cerey McWilliams, editor of The Nation (Feb. 1952) in "The White House Under Surveillance." In January 1952, Senator McCarthy charged that Phil Leo Nash, a member of President Truman's staff, had been named in an FBI report as having had close connections with the "Communists" in the 1940's. A special assistant to the President, David Lloyd, was branded by McCarthy in 1950 on the basis of "sources at the Loyalty Review Board." These Boards get their material from the FBI. Later McCarthy claimed that the Lloyd case was closed on orders from the White House. How did McCarthy, a personal friend of Hoover, happen to know this?

## Informer Goes to Jail



FBI Informer Joseph Mazzei is escorted to jail by sheriff's deputy (rear). Mazzei had long career as professional stool pigeon. He was jailed, however, not for helping to frame innocent people but on charges of failing to meet payments for support of an illegitimate child he allegedly fathered.

## Attack on Lowenthal

On Jan. 24, 1952, Representative George A. Dondero of Michigan attacked Max Lowenthal (author of the definitive, critical study, "The FBI") in vitriolic fashion on the floor of the House, charging that he was "back on the Washington scene" and had "recently almost succeeded in dealing a death blow to the government's program in prosecuting Communists." According to Dondero, Lowenthal was "the architect of the plan to fire J. Howard McGrath," President Truman's Attorney General.

Lowenthal, a noted New York attorney, is a close friend of Truman. While attempts were made to suppress Lowenthal's book in 1950, Dondero made the chief speech in Congress attacking Lowenthal. The N.Y. Post of Jan. 25, 1952 reported that "Dondero, like [Walter] Winchell, has frequently displayed notably close connections with the FBI." McWilliams poses the question: How did "Dondero know what was said in a conversation between the President and Mr. Lowenthal?"

The Nash, Lloyd and Lowenthal incidents as well as the FBI's failure to deny that it had been feeding information to Dondero and McCarthy, permit only one conclusion, that FBI

informers have the White House under surveillance.

J. Edgar Hoover, in opposing control of FBI personnel by the Civil Service Commission, noted that the FBI's work was of a highly confidential nature, because it also had to investigate high public officials. The CSC charged that the FBI was "an agency that feels it is justified in being 'above the law'."

The FBI informers, officially sanctioned, have become all-powerful; no one remains immune from their ratting. One of the stool pigeons was Elizabeth Bentley, who claimed she had once been a "Communist spy." Hoover placed his entire personal prestige as well as the prestige of the FBI behind this prize informer. He testified in Nov. 1953: "All information furnished by Miss Bentley, which has been susceptible to check, has proved correct. She has been subjected to the most searching cross-examination; her testimony has been evaluated by juries and reviewed by courts, and has been found to be accurate." The record, however, doesn't bear Hoover out. For instance, Bentley claimed Major Duncan Lee was a Communist Party member, "our most valuable source in the OSS . . ." he paid his dues to me.

## "Silvermaster Group"

Lee denied the charges. In a brief filed by Byron Scott, attorney for another of Bentley's victims, it was pointed out that in an FBI letter of Nov. 8, 1945, Bentley named Lee as a member of the "Silvermaster group" (described by her as a "Communist spy ring" in the federal government.) In an FBI memo of Nov. 27, 1945, she shifted him to the "Perlo group" (another alleged "ring"). Finally, in 1948 testimony before a House of Representatives committee, she "identified" him as a sub-agent of Mary Price.

Bentley testified she collected dues from the "Silvermaster group," and "the money I took down to Mr. Earl Browder, and got receipts from him." From July 1941 to May 1942, when she said she took money to him, Browder could not have been the recipient of dues, since he was in Atlanta penitentiary on charges of passport fraud.

Bentley testified she obtained the date of D-Day "long before D-Day happened" from Ullman "through his connections with Gen. Hilldring's office in the Air Corps." But Hilldring was in the Civil Affairs Division and had no connection with the Air Corps. General Eisenhower himself knew the date less than 24 hours in advance, due to

weather problems. The 107-page Scott brief filed in 1955 charged 37 such discrepancies.

Harvey Matusow described a dinner with Bentley at which she wept and complained that she was "sick of being used by committees." He quoted her as saying: "You're young, you can find a job. I can't. I have to continue doing this kind of work. I have to keep finding information to testify about."

Matusow was the FBI informer who put the witch-hunters on the spot when he repudiated various testimony he had given. He confessed that he lied as part of a deliberate plot to railroad innocent persons to prison for allegedly advocating the "overthrow of the government by force and violence." Matusow, prior to his autobiography, "False Witness," put the finger on 180 people, helped send 12 CP leaders to jail and supplied "statistics" for McCarthy's charge of "20 years of treason" against the Democratic Party.

The Feb. 5, 1955 N.Y. Times stated that "the shabby business of the paid professional informer, which has reached new dimensions under governmental encouragement during the past few years, has been given a blow" by Matusow. There was no need to wait for Matusow to

admit his fabrications. In Nov. 1952, he claimed there were "126 Communists on the Sunday section of the N.Y. Times" even though the entire Sunday-section staff consisted of only 90 people. On March 13, 1952, Matusow told a committee: "I know by sight probably 10,000 party members in N.Y."

The FBI is engaging in deliberate and calculated frame-ups. The FBI knows what it is purchasing when it buys testimony from informers. It is only after the hirelings publicly confess to perjury that the political police becomes alarmed. While sending people to prison on fabricated testimony, Matusow was an FBI hero; after he confessed and testified to get people out of jail, Matusow was imprisoned.

## Agent Provocateur

Scarletto, an FBI undercover spy in the CP, testified that he was instructed to enlist in the army by the "Communists" so he could commit "sabotage" in Korea. This damaging testimony was accepted at face value by the Subversive Activities Control Board. Then it turned out that during a CP meeting he had made the suggestion that he join the army so that he could commit sabotage in Korea. In other words, he was causing trouble as an agent provocateur. Scarletto considered it "funny" that he succeeded in getting a \$5 subscription to the People's World from a neighbor whom he knew to be anti-communist, and then turned in her name to the FBI.

In the 1955 Smith-Act Trials, William Garfield Cummings of Toledo admitted he had signed up relatives into the CP, then turned in their names to the

for five years—his punishment for recanting. The five year sentence was also a brutal warning to all the other lying informers not to go straight.

Joseph D. Mazzei, a former FBI eavesdropper in the Communist Party from 1942 to 1953 and a major witness in the Pittsburgh Smith Act trial, turned in reports for 11 years before the government decided he was not trustworthy. His Miami testimony included fabrications about plans for a "Communist invasion" of the U.S. and plotting the assassination of congressmen and a judge. Unlike Matusow, nothing happened to Mazzei because he did not turn on the FBI and did not aid those whom he helped incarcerate.

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fied that he had often met him at meetings of the CP's central committee. Asked to point out Burck, Crouch unhesitatingly fingered a Chicago Tribune photographer.

During the 1949 Harry Bridges perjury trial, Crouch denied knowing David Davis, a Pennsylvania CP leader. "I have never heard of David Davis," he told the court. "I have no knowledge of David Davis." He repeated the denial three times. In 1951, however, his memory apparently rejuvenated, he said he had not only heard of Davis but had met him as early as 1928. Crouch swore he had worked closely with Davis on infiltration of the army in the 1930's.

Crouch testified in May 1949 against Armand Scala. He elab-

## 'Scared to Death'

This admission of perjury came on the heels of a confession by FBI informer Marie Natvig. Mrs. Natvig charged that she was "brainwashed" into linking Lamb with the CP; that they "manufactured the evidence" after the prosecuting attorney said "Let's murder the bum." She stated, "I was reciting a prepared speech. I was scared to death. They told me what the truth was and told me to tell it."

At the North Carolina Smith Act trial of Junius Scales, the government called Ralph Clontz who began to spy on Scales for the FBI while still attending Duke University. He earned up to \$400 a month from the FBI. Charles Benson Childs, a young University of North Carolina physics student who joined the CP for the FBI, was another witness. Scales' attorney, David Rein, remarked to the jury that "apparently now it's the fashion to work your way through school by working for the FBI."

To an all-white, largely middle-class Southern jury, Clontz palavered about Scales' plan to unite the "Negro nation." Childs "testified" about a secret school for Communists on a North Carolina farm, where

## Netted \$10,000 a Year

In testimony given in May 1955, Brown, when asked about his lying, replied: "That's what I was paid to do by the FBI." There is a special significance to Brown's "I-lie-for-the-FBI" confession. He worked directly for the FBI, fabricating reports which never featured in trials or hearings, but were used to build up the FBI's files and to screen workers off their jobs.

Louis Budenz, former editor of the Daily Worker, testified that his turnover activities netted him over \$10,000 a year. He claims to have spent 3,000 hours giving the names of "Communists" to the FBI. In none of these soul-cleansing sessions did he name John Carter Vincent

or Owen Lattimore. Yet when McCarthy decided to lock them in the pillory, the Fordham professor quite suddenly had a moment of deep awareness. It came to him quite certainly that they were "Communists" — to which he then testified.

The FBI's standards of morality were exhibited when Daphne Price, a 19-year-old Canadian girl, studying at the University of Michigan broke down and exposed the role she had been forced to play for the FBI. For four months she spied on her boy friend and turned in the names of his campus acquaintances. She did so, she said, because the FBI intimidated a threat that her position as an

alien had been jeopardized by dating Edward Schaeffer in early 1954. Use of blackmail—trafficking in fear and misery—is one way the FBI makes informers. Bernard Horwath had been questioned four times by the FBI but refused to give names of those he knew in the CP. Then the FBI asked him to rejoin the CP and become an informer. He explained "I just couldn't do it." Denaturalization proceedings followed in 1954. Horwath, now an electrical contractor, was accused of having failed to mention in his 1931 naturalization proceedings that he was a "Communist."

The much publicized Matthew Cvetic, informer, hero of the movie "I was a Communist for the FBI," author of Saturday Evening Post articles and a radio series based on his FBI experiences, turned out to be an alcoholic with attendant psychotic disorders who had been repeatedly hospitalized. In Chicago the Court of Appeals reversed the deportation order against Brzovich based on Cvetic's testimony that he had seen Brzovich at a "Communist" meeting. The court did not find Cvetic's testimony credible. In Pennsylvania, Cvetic has appeared as a witness in some 300 cases. He was also a witness against Carl and Anne Braden.

At the hearings to remove the Independent Socialist League from the Attorney General's list, July 11, 1956, James Burnham, appearing as government witness, said that it was permissible for "individuals working as agents of the government or officers of the government under instruction" to lie in fighting Soviet or "other communisms." (The ISL had been listed as a communist organization, although opposed to the Communist Party.) Burnham also said that "whatever small relations I've had with



Harvey Matusow (r) and Roy Cohn were key figures in the late Senator McCarthy's witchhunting "investigations." Matusow, who was also an informer for the FBI, confessed he fabricated false testimony and directly implicated Cohn in the political frameups. As McCarthy's legal counsel, Cohn boasted of his access to FBI files.

the FBI are a matter of confidence."

Manning Johnson, a paid FBI informer, testified before the Subversive Activities Control Board that in his ardent patriotism, some things are above truth. Q. "In other words, you will tell a lie under oath in a court of law, rather than run counter to your instructions from the FBI. Is that right?" A. "If the interests of my government are at stake. In the face of enemies, at home and abroad, if maintaining secrecy of the techniques of methods of operation of the FBI who have responsibility for the protection of our people, I say I will do it a thousand times."

In a Pennsylvania sedition trial, Johnson underwent cross-examination about testimony he gave in a previous deportation proceeding. Q. "That testimony was not correct, was it, Mr. Johnson?" A. "No, it wasn't, precisely, because I could not at that time reveal that I had supplied information to the FBI . . . I think the security of the government has priority over . . . any other consideration."

Johnson told the Louisiana Legislative Committee on Segregation in March 1957 that the Rev. Martin Luther King, leader of the vicious Montgomery bus boycott, was "a dastardly misleader who is leading the Negroes of the South down to destruction and bloodshed."

It is fitting that the idols of the FBI are stool pigeons who have been publicly exposed as professional liars, falsifiers, agent provocateurs and frame-up artists. Because the charge that Marxism is a "conspiracy" to overthrow the government by "force and violence" is a barefaced lie, the FBI must conjure fraudulent evidence. And it considers nobody immune from their informers.

# ... Labor's Political Independence

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best way to vote for him was on the Liberal Party line.

The ISP made a bold try at gaining 50,000 votes for its gubernatorial candidate John T. McManus. This would have legally qualified a new socialist electoral party in New York state. It would have made a strong impact on the whole labor movement and stimulated new interest in the idea of a Labor Party.

This should have been reason enough for the Communist Party leaders to support the ISP; instead they opposed it in every way in the name of "working with the labor movement" within the Democratic Party.

## OHIO EXPERIENCE

Consider now the 1958 electoral experience in Ohio where the "Right to Work" bill was defeated by the labor movement. What was the central feature of this notable achievement? An editorial in the December issue of MESA Educator, paper of the 50,000-member

Mechanics Educational Society of America, AFL-CIO, relates how the movement to defeat R-T-W, which the editors regard as an incipient form of movement for a Labor Party, arose from below and achieved its purpose. "Not because of, but despite labor's top brass," the editors say, "organized labor in Ohio was forced to set up its own class organization — United Organized Labor of Ohio — which was independent of both capitalist parties and the AFL-CIO political arm COPE."

It would be interesting to learn why the Worker, in all the space it devoted to the lessons of the 1958 elections, never even cited this editorial appraisal of the significance of the remarkable events in Ohio. The MESA editorial describes how the independent political formation "UOLO set in motion a tremendous release of working class solidarity that has not been witnessed or felt for many decades in this state. It was truly a 'grass roots movement' and Nov. 4 gave proof positive of this when R-T-W was crushed by a two-to-one vote."

The MESA editors quite correctly conclude that "The experience gained from the R-T-W fight showed that labor could unite on issues and that it could win the support of a substantial segment of the community. It emphasized that labor did not need — in fact in this instance could not rely on — its so-called political friends."

The editors show how both Democratic and Republican candidates were in effect supporters of the "Right to Work" measure and that the political ties of the labor movement with the Democratic party were a major obstacle in the way of the struggle.

## RANKS BREAK COALITION

Did the CP policy of working with the "labor movement" in the Democratic Party find confirmation in Ohio? No, it was refuted there. The workers in Ohio demonstrated that as soon as labor's ranks engage in political action on a mass scale,

they burst through the coalition of the Democratic Party and the labor officials.

The Ohio experience exposed the labor bureaucracy in a special way. Normally, labor's top brass blocks every serious step in the many progressive struggles the working class and Negro people should be waging. Or they immobilize the labor movement where progressive struggles are actually taking place. But in Ohio, the ranks swept past the top officials to victory. The success of the endeavor proves that labor could score similar gains on other issues if the ranks get the bureaucracy out of the way.

On the electoral field or on the numerous fronts of the class struggle the labor bureaucracy is a major obstacle to the progress of the labor movement. That's why the policy of the CP and SP-SDF leadership, which begins and ends with subservience to the labor bureaucracy, must be fought tooth and nail if socialists are to fulfill their proper mission.

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## THE MILITANT

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Vol. XXII — No. 52

Monday, December 29, 1958

### Monroe Journal on N.Y. Strike

What's behind efforts of business interests in a town like Monroe, N.C., to keep the Negro community in a state of second-class citizenship? Often it appears to be an obsession that blinds them to all else. But this really isn't so. The bitter determination of the Southern ruling class to maintain Jim Crow is consciously linked to a more basic goal—that of maintaining the open shop. The aim is to prevent Negro and white workers from winning adequate wages and decent working conditions. "There are no unions in Union County," boasts the literature of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce. (Monroe is located in Union County.)

An interesting example, proving that class issues are basic with these people, is found in the Dec. 16 issue of the Monroe Journal. Like most of the kept Southern press, the Journal bitterly castigates its Northern counterparts for reporting even a few instances of Southern persecution

of Negroes. The Journal's professed hatred of the Northern press over this appears so deep that it would seem as if nothing could overshadow it. But its reaction to the New York newspaper strike shows otherwise.

The Journal editors say that their feeling about the New York press "tempts us for once to side with the strikes." But class allegiance quickly overcomes temptation. "... We really don't condone strikes of any sort," says the Journal, "even in that citadel of keyhole reporting and general misinformation about the South. It is one thing for labor to seek out and obtain its just rewards, but is quite a different matter for any group of Americans to have a death grip at the throat of the entire national economy." Etc., etc., as the Journal runs through the rest of the union-buster's litany.

Moral: Scratch a professional Negro-baiter and you will find a labor-hater.

### They'll Try, But Not Too Hard

In the Nov. 4 elections, 182 labor-endorsed Democrats were elected to the House of Representatives. This has been a basis for a good deal of talk about how, from labor's viewpoint, there's going to be a big change for the better in Congress and in the Democratic Party too. But if we are to judge by a Dec. 19 U.S. News and World Report interview with Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, there is no substance to such talk.

"Is there anything to the idea that the Democratic party is becoming an American labor party," the magazine asked. "Utter nonsense," replied the Texas Democrat.

What of the view of some people that the 86th Congress will be dominated by the unions, the interviewer asked. "I answered that a while ago by saying the Democratic party is not going to be a labor party," said Rayburn. "We are going to try to treat the labor unions justly and fairly and not give them more than they deserve, or less than they deserve."

While the Democrats may "try" to give labor some justice, there is no doubt whatever that they will treat Big Business fairly—and maybe a little better. "Now, the Democratic party is not against business just because it is big," Rayburn said. "We know there have got to be vast aggregations of business, factories, and so forth, to take care of the economy of the country, and they have got to be big."

But, it may be argued, Rayburn is only talking for the conservative Democrats. Not according to his liberal colleagues. On Dec. 15, 20 House liberal Democrats caucused on means of liberalizing House rules. The Christian Science Monitor reported the next day that Rep. Frank Thompson of New Jersey said that "the consensus of those present favored seeking reforms through the established House leadership of Speaker Rayburn." And the Monitor correctly adds, "This is a recognition of the political fact that Speaker Rayburn's views are all important."

### "Ode to Sanitation"

The following poem, "An Ode to Sanitation with Apologies to Our Advertisers," is by Pierre Berton, and is reprinted from the Oct. 21 Toronto Star.

As scientists we must admit, the Russians have us beat  
But there's one branch of research, in which they can't compete;  
Our plumbing is the envy of every Western nation:  
We may not put up Sputniks—but we're tops in sanitation.  
Oh, we invented Lifebuoy, when Stalin was a tot  
And we developed Listerine before the Czar was shot.  
Now we've come up with Mum and Ban and Duz and Tide and Vel.  
We only need one other thing to give those Russians hell:  
So every American, from Ike to Gravel Gertie,  
Is praying that we'll soon perfect  
A bomb that isn't dirty ...

We got to have a clean bomb—  
An absolutely antiseptic socially acceptable pristine bomb.  
Now war's a filthy business;  
We don't want it to recur.  
So we've got to have a clean bomb to Detergently deter.

We want a right bomb.  
Whiter than white bomb,  
A bomb to knock the spots off of that dirty Muscovite bomb.  
And if we have to drop it  
You'll see our victims grin  
For we'll have the only H-bomb  
That's made with lanolin.

We got to have a clean bomb—  
A tested-and-approved-by-Good-Housekeeping magazine bomb.  
So when the mushroom cloud goes up  
And folks die by the acre  
They won't be plagued by Strontium-90  
When they meet their Maker.

We want a demure bomb.  
Safe and sure bomb,  
Ninety-nine-and-forty-four-one-hundredths percent pure bomb  
And though our victims call out  
Every time our bombs go past 'em  
We can promise that there won't be any  
Fallout when we blast 'em.

As scientists we must admit, the Russians have the edge  
But as leaders of the Western world,  
We make this solemn pledge:  
We'll keep sending chromium bath tubs to the Sikhs and Japanese;  
We'll keep putting Cannon towels in every box of Breeze;  
We'll ship Kleenex to the Eskimos, although it may not suit 'em.  
And if we're forced to bomb 'em,  
those bombs will not pollute 'em.

We got to have a clean bomb—  
An undefiled, untarnished and untainted sweet-sixteen bomb.  
Our enemies will thank us  
For our faith in sanitation:  
We may blow them all to pieces  
But there'll be no radiation.

We want an okay bomb.  
British fair play bomb,  
With more active dirt remover than any other A-bomb  
Now Sani-Sealed in Pliofilm  
To answer our demands,  
When it finally explodes it won't  
Be touched by human hands.

We got to have a clean bomb—  
The kind of bomb it's safe to give your kids on Halloween bomb.  
Now that bomb may kill ten thousand Little children in the night,  
But when they lay those corpses out  
They'll all be Rinso-white.

We want a chaste bomb.  
In good taste bomb,  
An altogether ethical, high-principled, strait-laced bomb.  
Our heritage is Puritan—  
That's why we're dedicated;  
Our high explosives, like our books  
Are better expurgated.

As scientists we must admit, the Russians are one-up.  
But we invented Sani-Flush when Khrushchev was a pup.  
They may have Sputniks in the air,  
(We winced to hear them coming)  
But we couldn't raise a satellite  
Without the proper plumbing.  
We can't stand contamination!  
We consider it obscene!  
And we'll never fight a dirty war  
Without a bomb that's clean.

# Report on the Political Situation in Kerala

By P. R. Dharmabandu  
IRINJALAKUDA, SOUTH INDIA—Kerala is the smallest state in India with 14,980 square miles and a population of now over 15 million. Eighty percent of the people of this tiny, but beautiful, part of the Indian sub-continent depend upon agriculture for a living. Nevertheless, this is a deficit area in respect to food. The state has to purchase about two-thirds of its food needs from other states.

The percentage of literacy in Kerala is 84%, the highest of any state in India. But in the number of unemployed, too, Kerala leads with about four million. Because of that Kerala has been named the "Problem State" of India. The main problems have never been solved although more than half a dozen Congress Party ministries and one Praja Socialist Party ministry have ruled the state since 1947, when India achieved independence.

#### CP WINS ELECTION

Kerala attracted world attention in early 1957, when the Communist Party won the elections and took power. It was not purely accidental. The only other party that could have won the elections was the Congress Party. But misrule and factional fights had lost the confidence of the electorate. The world looked with interest on how the events would shape up once the Communist Party was put in power. Both the admirers and the critics have watched the new, intriguing situation with curiosity. Undeniably, the Kerala Government evoked sympathy and hope from all sections of progressive-minded people throughout the world. And the by-election in the Devikulam constituency has clearly proved that Kerala voters still cherish hopes that the Communist Government will deliver the goods.

The first year passed without much discredit, making due allowance for the inexperience of the ministers in the art of administration. It witnessed the line-up of forces both for and against the first "Leftist" Government in the State. The Congress, the Moslem League and the Praja Socialist Party entered into an understanding which was clearly shown in the united stand they took against the Communist Party government in its effort to find solutions to problems confronting the young state.

This united opposition put up a stiff fight against the Education Bill moved by the Communist Party ministry immediately after the assumption of office. The bill was a progressive one; it was intended to impart to the teachers security of job, salary and honor. It was also intended to abolish anarchy in the educational field, as more than ten thousand

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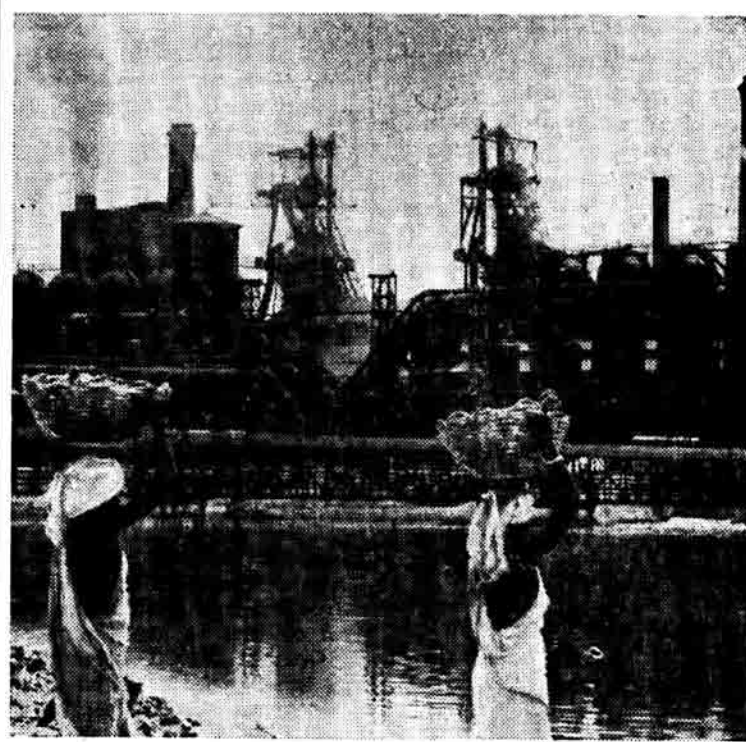
This was resented by the student population, with the result that there was not a single school in the state that was not brought into the strike movement. The government was forced to give in. It granted free boat fares to Kuttanad

the union who favors signing the present employer offer, put a motion to the membership on Dec. 16 that they again submit it to a vote, his motion was overwhelmingly defeated. Commenting on what happened, one union member said, "We don't want any vote [on a contract] until the publishers make us a better offer than the one we've rejected already."

Another union member I talked to while he was picketing in the bitter cold said, "About 3,600 members were there [including members other than newspaper deliverers] and they were furious when the leadership brought back the same contract and tried to get another vote on it. They voted to cut off all pay for the officials until the strike is over. They almost tore the place down."

#### HOW STRIKE BEGAN

Solidarity shown toward the striking drivers by rank-and-file members of the other newspaper unions has sparked the



Modern steel plant in India. It barely dents basic agrarian character of India with semi-feudal land relations still prevailing. Eighty per cent of Kerala population lives by agriculture.

schools in the state were managed privately. Even though the Catholic Church fought tooth and nail against the bill, there was a flood of demonstrations urging the government to enact the legislation.

#### CP CAVES IN

The cabinet was hesitant. The ministers agreed to incorporate a number of amendments that were demanded by the Catholics and supported by the Rightist parties. The Moslem League, through an editorial in its mouthpiece, Chandrika, warmly welcomed the government's new stand. It was sheer surrender of principles on the part of the Stalinist ministers. Their spineless action sorely disappointed many CP supporters.

Last July was marked by a wave of student strikes throughout Kerala that at one time threatened to engulf the CP ministry. The struggle began over a trifling issue—the denial of boat-fare concession to school-going children in Kuttanad. The students had enjoyed the concession before the Water Transport Corporation was formed by the government early this year. The wave of strikes started in Kuttanad. It soon spread to all parts of Kerala as the government, though fondly hoping that the struggle would fizzle out, mobilized party branches to meet the serious situation.

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students until a one-man commission appointed to review the conflict should recommend otherwise. The government also agreed to appoint a commission of inquiry into the various incidents that occurred during the July disturbances.

The government could have prevented the struggle from assuming mass proportions, had it come to a reasonable settlement when the parents' representatives, led by the former Advocate General of Madras, Shri Kutikrishna Menon, met the Chief Minister and placed certain compromise proposals before him. By refusing to accept a settlement then, the Stalinists had to make bigger concessions later when the struggle put their power at stake. It was a clear loss of face and of prestige. By the by it was the only time that the CP admitted defeat.

#### AGRARIAN LAW

The much-publicized Agrarian Relations Bill is being discussed by the Select Committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly in its last session. Pending enactment, the Ministry passed an act prohibiting evictions by the landlords. It was a wise step to prevent possible evictions by those landlords who would be seriously affected by the land bill. The CP ministers said that the bill was overdue, and that they were doing what the Congress had done in other states in respect to land relations. The progressive land bill caused the rightist parties to unite in attempts to foil the reform measure.

The Revolutionary Socialist

Party which was badly defeated in the last general election is the only party that has demanded a still more progressive land reform.

It is feared that there is considerable opposition to the CP bill even inside the Communist Party. A good percentage of CP leaders hail from feudal land-owning families, which are to be expropriated completely under the proposed law.

Since the main peasant organization is led by the Communists themselves, such of their leaders who would be greatly affected by this law, peacefully managed to grab their lands from the tenants who had cultivated the holdings for years without proper documents.

In Kollangode, one Mr. Narayanankutty (younger brother of a CP legislator and trade union leader), Mr. P. Balachandran Menon, as well as seven others were arrested for illegal trespass when they attempted to eject a tenant from his holdings. Mr. Narayanankutty is a prominent Communist peasant leader of the area and hails from a jenni (land-lord) family. The eviction attempt was in support of his own relatives. The tenant Mr. Kittu objected to the forcible entry of Narayanankutty and party, and filed a petition before the police. The police made the arrests as a result.

This is not an isolated incident. Many a Stalinist leader has taken to this devious method with connivance of the leadership of the peasant organizations. The minister of law, it should be remembered, made over his huge lands into a trust on the eve of the publication of the Land Bill. This was done to save his lands from the ceiling clauses of the Bill. This insincere and faithless act of the minister provoked a furor among the people.

#### CP CALLS FOR WATERING DOWN

His resignation was demanded by the electorate of his own constituency; but the minister coolly evaded the issue. The CP does not dare discuss the issue publicly. The latest news is that the state committee of the Kerala Communist Party has passed a resolution calling upon the government to make the bill, as far as possible, acceptable to the opposition parties. This strange move from the party that has a majority in the Assembly portends that the Land Bill will be drastically amended to the advantage of the vested landlord interests.

Munier — a High Ranges plantation area—recently saw police fire upon strikers. On Oct. 4, workers of the Kanan Devan plantations quit work. The rival union, led by the Indian National Trade Union Congress, withdrew from the strike

6 newspaper representative, urged the printers to cross the deliverers' picket line on Dec. 10, "they were told that the first thing was to get the four ITU members reinstated before the printers would consider any further move." Barrett then asked the picket captain for permission to go through the picket line to see Daily News business manager George Donnelly.

#### LEADER WITHOUT FOLLOWING

Barrett returned with the reply that he couldn't get the four reinstated. Then he again asked the printers to cross the line. At this time there were about 300-400 workers present. "Barrett linked arms with Vaillancourt and proceeded through the picket line expecting the men to follow. Nobody did."

It is reported that in the Pressman's union, Joseph F. Dwyer, who had been president of the newspaper local for 13 consecutive years, stated publicly, Dec. 13, that he'd tell the members of his union to cross the picket lines. His opponent for the office of president, James O. Mahoney, adopted a policy of respecting the picket lines. On Dec. 15, in the union elections, Mahoney defeated Dwyer by a sizeable majority.

Officially, the other unions have refused to support the striking drivers. But the bulk of the ranks have clearly indicated their solidarity. Yet, there is more than solidarity involved, although that is fundamental. The members of all the newspaper unions have a stake in this strike and they know it. If the \$7 package contract is broken, it will place their unions in a much better bargaining position in their present negotiations. They will have the chance to make greater gains than they could hope for otherwise.



Prime Minister Nehru of India. His Congress Party was replaced by the Communist Party in government of Kerala state.

as the planters agreed to refer a bonus question to arbitration. This angered the CP-led union. The strike put the government in a critical position. The workers' demand for a 25% bonus for 1957-1958 was not exorbitant. But when strikers prevent scabs from working and even terrorize them a bit, then the police usually intervene to maintain "law and order."

The CP government's police also intervened. On Oct. 15, the police opened fire at Nettykudi, but there were no casualties as the police fired in the air bearing in mind that they were dealing with CP-led workers. Under similar circumstances, the police had opened fire at Chandanathope last July 26 when Revolutionary Socialist Party workers prevented finished products from being carried away from a locked-out factory. There the police fired to kill, with the blessings of the Stalinist ministers.

#### POLICE KILL CP WORKERS

On Oct. 20, the police again fired at two places—at Gudirally and Thalayar. This resulted in the death of two workers, one woman and one man. How were the CP chiefs going to explain why the police fired on CP workers? Simple! Rosamma, the president of the Devikulam Estate Workers' Union alleged, on Oct. 22, that the firings were ordered as a result of a "conspiracy" between the management, INTUC leaders and some police officials! But the Communist Law Minister had averred that the government would give protection to life and property of the plantations. Might not this stand have prompted the police to shoot into the crowd?

The strike continued for 27 days. The planters were adamant. They said that there would be no negotiations until the strike was called off. On Oct. 30 the action council announced "suspension" of the strike. But the revolutionary-minded section of the workers hesitated to call off the strike. However, several top-ranking Communist party leaders rushed to the spot and persuaded the strikers to resume work. The unwilling workers returned to work only at 3 P.M., instead of in the morning hours on Oct. 30.

Thus the Stalinist leaders went down on their knees before the planters. It was a surrender of both principles and prestige. Their action with regard to the Estate Workers' strike was a shameful betrayal of the entire Indian working-class movement.

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# The Negro Struggle

## Harvard Law Record on Racist Courts

Until fairly recently the lyncher's rope was the symbol of Southern racism. Today the lynch mobs are being supplanted in large measure by a Jim Crow court system that is used to "legally" railroad untold thousands of Southern Negroes to prison and often to execution. The net effect is not basically different.

On occasion a particularly glaring example of white supremacist "justice" breaks into the national press. The most recent example is the North Carolina "kissing" case. (See story page 1.)

In this case, independent investigation quickly exposed how the Bill of Rights had been swept aside to victimize two innocent children. But what of the countless other cases in the South where the facts have not yet been fully established? For example, during the month of November, in the same state of North Carolina, fourteen Negro youths, aged 14 to 17 were sentenced to life in prison. A fifteenth received the death penalty. They were convicted solely on the testimony of two white women who claimed they were raped — the kind of testimony reminiscent of the Scottsboro frame-up in the 1930's.

The illegal use of the courts to deprive Southern Negroes of life and liberty has become so widespread that last Oct. 2 the Harvard Law Record, oldest and most respected law-school paper in the country, devoted a lengthy editorial to this crucial problem. The point of departure for the editorial was the case of Jimmy Wilson, the Alabama Negro who was sentenced to death for an alleged theft of less than \$2. Underscoring the need for effective

aid to the countless victims of the Southern courts, the editorial said in part:

"The spotlight recently has been focused upon the struggle of Negroes in the South to attend the same schools as white people. But even more important than this is the Negroes' fight for life, for his freedom, in cases which arise in Southern courts every day of the year.

"The case of Jimmy Wilson is unique in one way, for seldom is anyone anywhere condemned to death for stealing \$1.92. But it is typical, all too typical, of the 'raw deal' that the average Negro receives in local criminal courts throughout the South day after day.

"Governor Folsom is to be commended for saving Jimmy Wilson's life. But he hesitated a good while before doing so. He did not act until after the case had received widespread publicity throughout not only this country, but the whole world, almost all of it sympathetic to Wilson, until he had received a floodtide of letters, including many from important personages, such as George Meany, pleading for Wilson's life to be spared, and until Secretary of State Dulles sent a telegram, informing him of the black eye that the case was giving the United States abroad. . . .

"It is not so much the Negro desiring to fulfill his wish to attend an integrated school in Little Rock or Norfolk who needs protection. It is the unheeded Negro in the unheard-of town, the one who is accused of a crime but who can't afford to hire a capable lawyer to defend him, and who is not offered top quality, high-priced counsel by the NAACP."

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# THE MILITANT

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## Interview with Conrad Lynn

By Harry Ring

**NEW YORK, Dec. 22—**Conrad Lynn is a slim, youthful looking man whose vigor of speech and movement belies a busy 25-year legal career. As I talked with him this afternoon at his office on lower Broadway it was readily apparent that he's a man who relishes a good fight for a just cause. As we discussed the case of Hanover Thompson and "Fuzzy" Simpson which he's handling as general counsel to the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice it was equally clear that he thinks and acts as a full-time participant in the fight for equal rights and not just as a legal counsel to it.

Between incoming phone calls, he described his recent week in Monroe where he began the legal moves to free the two youngsters who are in a reformatory because one of them was kissed by a little white girl. The phone calls indicated something of the nature of his practice. One call, he explained, was from a young man whose landlord had been trying to evict him because he's the chairman of a tenants committee in the building. "We slapped a \$50,000 damage suit on him for harassment," Lynn said, "and the judge just threw out a defense motion to dismiss the case."

Another call was from a client back from a trip to Israel. She called to tell Lynn about the committee that had been set up in Haifa to help save Jimmy Wilson for whom Lynn served as co-attorney.

### LEGAL ABUSES

Explaining the legal aspects of the fight, he said the case of young Thompson and Simpson is overloaded with Constitutional abuses. The boys were held incommunicado for six days. Their parents couldn't get to see them, let alone getting a lawyer to see them. They were denied bail. Then they were given what Lynn calls a "separate but equal" hearing. The judge heard the white witnesses. Then he called them and their parents without a lawyer. The kids were scared, of course, and their mothers didn't know what to say since they hadn't been able to find out what happened.

"It was the first time I've ever seen anything like it," said Lynn, "but I wouldn't be surprised if it's been done before. When I talked to the judge about it he didn't seem to think it was unusual. Children are denied many Constitutional safeguards afforded adults. This is true in all the states. You can imagine how much more so in the South. In these delinquency hearings, hearsay evidence is permissible. They can be tried without counsel. This is based on the legal fiction that a delinquency finding isn't a criminal conviction."

"In one technical sense it isn't. Here in New York where the Baumes law provides a life term for fourth offenders, delinquency doesn't count as a fourth offense. But I've even seen such convictions read into the record against traffic offenders. It's a legal fiction that should be exposed. A child judged a delinquent does have it against his record throughout his adult life."

"I understand you got to visit the two boys at the reformatory," I asked. "How are they doing?"

"When I saw those two kids, I realized what it means to be



Conrad Lynn (right foreground); his wife, Yolanda (left); son, Alexander; and daughter, Susan. Picture taken at 1957 Prayer Pilgrimage to Washington, Lincoln Memorial in background.

a Negro in North Carolina. They don't have any state orphanages down there for Negro children so they put orphans into the Negro reformatory along with 16 and 18 year old boys convicted of serious criminal offenses. Fuzzy and Hanover were the two smallest ones there and Fuzzy in particular was really terrified.

"How are they treated? Well, I tell you this. It was cold when we were down there, with a heavy snow. But that kid didn't even have a pair of underwear on. They gave him some old dungarees, a sweat shirt and a tattered jacket."

Did he feel that the persecution of these youngsters is directly related to the general intimidation down there?

"It certainly is. This is a case of direct retaliation against the Negro community and they don't even pretend differently. When I went into court there to try to get a reduction of sentence, Judge Price told me 'We had peaceful relations with our colored folks until that man Robert Williams came to Monroe.'"

With obvious admiration, Lynn described why the Monroe racists had good reason to hate Robert Williams and why they have threatened his life.

When Williams came back home to Monroe a few years ago after a hitch in the army and jobs in Detroit and New Jersey auto plants he became president of the virtually defunct Union County NAACP and began to build it up by courageous fights on local issues.

First he won the right for Negroes to use the "white-only" library after the one for Negroes had burned down. Then after a nine-year-old Negro boy drowned in the local creek he led a group of Negro youth down to the municipal pool and demanded the right to use it too.

After the KKK burned a cross near the home of Dr. A. E. Perry, vice president of the Union County NAACP and Williams' close collaborator, they organized the Negro community for defense against possible KKK violence and turned back the KKK motorcade assault that followed shortly after the cross burning.

"That's why they're going after Dr. Perry too," Lynn said. "When he was first convicted on that frame-up charge of committing an abortion on a white woman the State Supreme Court had to throw the conviction out because it was based on such grossly defective evidence. The only evidence was the unsub-

stantiated word of this woman. After the Supreme Court reversed the conviction, they never would have brought him into court again if it wasn't for the part he played in the swimming pool fight."

### SOLIDARITY IN MONROE

Despite the intimidation the Negro community is standing firm, Lynn said. "What impressed me most as I walked through that town," he said, "is the way the people there are supporting Williams in this fight. It's amazing the extent to which they have the feeling 'We're all together.' That's the really healthy thing about the town. They have a new stature as human beings."

Explaining that the parents of the two boys had retained him as counsel on advice of Williams and Dr. Perry, Lynn said the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice is also rallying support for Dr. Perry and for Mrs. Mary Reid who is pressing charges against a white man that beat and attempted to rape her.

"In making this fight," he said, "we feel we're supplementing the work of the NAACP. We hope the NAACP will decide to help on this case. We'll certainly welcome all the help and support they can give in this fight."

The union movement should also add its support. "I think labor has a major responsibility in a case like this. The South is the seed bed of American fascism. The big danger of 'right-to-work' laws comes from the Southern politicians. The most reactionary anti-labor legislation usually originates with the Southern heads of Congressional committees."

## ... Monroe Case

(Continued from Page 1) was first brought into Recorder's Court on Nov. 10 the judge set low bail and put off fixing charges till Dec. 19, observing that by then Mrs. Reid would have had her baby. He also opined that there was not enough evidence for a finding of probable cause — basis of indictment — for a charge of attempted rape. "He was just drunk and out to have a good time," was the way the judge put it.

Basing itself on age-old experience, local opinion held that Medlin would be tried on a much lesser charge or that the case would be dropped altogether — with the odds favoring the latter outcome. Pressure was brought to bear on Mrs. Reid with the obvious intent of intimidating her from testifying at the Dec. 19 hearing.

Union County NAACP leaders, who had joined with others in forming the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice, considered it essential that Mrs. Reid have counsel with her at the hearing. This was necessary to placate her fears that she end up as defendant or be otherwise victimized — something not at all far-fetched where a Negro is the complainant against a white — and to prevent, if possible, a complete dismissal of the case. Conrad Lynn was unable to return to Monroe for this hearing and the committee succeeded in retaining local counsel.

Upon the opening of the hearing Mrs. Reid's lawyer moved that previous testimony be reheard and that Dr. A. E. Perry be called. Mrs. Reid described again how Medlin had come in to her house, grabbed her, chased her when she broke away, striking her on the back, beating her in the face and knocking her to the ground. Dr. Perry testified that when she was brought to him for medical treatment she was still bleeding. Upon completion of the testimony the judge ruled that there was "probable cause" for the charge and ordered the

### How Lynn Entered Civil Rights Field

Conrad Lynn, who is attorney for the Rockland County, N. Y., NAACP, first came into national prominence in the civil rights field during World War II when he acted as attorney for his brother Winfred. The latter had informed officials of the then segregated army that he would accept induction only for service in an integrated unit. Winfred Lynn was imprisoned. Then he accepted induction in order to test the issue in the courts. His case was appealed twice to the Supreme Court by the noted civil liberties attorney Arthur Garfield Hayes. Each time the high court refused to review it.

"The South itself is a major problem for the unions," he continued. "You have a test tube example in Monroe. We picked up some Chamber of Commerce literature down there and they openly boast that there aren't any unions in Union County, that labor is 'cooperative'—and cheap."

The prospects for Hanover Thompson and "Fuzzy" Simpson are excellent, Lynn concluded, "provided enough people, nationally and internationally, make their feelings known. The legal machinery is available to us. But it will mean something only if we build a strong protest movement."

### case sent to Superior Court.

In addition to the legal aid supplied Mrs. Reid, there are indications that another factor influenced the judge against dismissing the case. After the hearing, the judge complained that "a lot of misinformation" about this case had been published and that misinformed people had been writing letters of protest to Gov. Hodges. It is an open secret that a representative of Gov. Hodges visited Monroe recently and had conferences with the local officials.

The Committee to Combat Racial Injustice is urging letters of protest and is circulating and sending to Gov. Hodges petitions for the immediate release of the children.

As yet, however, the case is not known to the general public. Practically nothing on it has been carried by the press associations. Only the N.Y. Post (before the current strike), the National Guardian, the Militant and some of the Negro papers have given detailed accounts of the Monroe situation.

### PUBLICITY ABROAD

Paradoxically, newspaper readers in foreign countries are on the average better informed on the case than Americans. For example the Dec. 18 London News Chronicle carried photos and a big front-page story by a correspondent it had sent to Monroe. The lead editorial of the same issue denounced the treatment of the two Negro children.

One of Britain's outstanding clergymen, L. J. Collins, Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, has called a protest to Gov. Hodges and the U.S. Ambassador. In France, the Committee Against Racism and Anti-Semitism, headed by Jean Paul Sartre, has similarly protested.

All those desiring to help the Negro people of Monroe in their struggles — the "Kissing Case," the frame-up of NAACP Vice-President Perry, evictions, and other economic pressure—should send contributions to Committee to Combat Racial Injustice, Suite 1117, 141 Broadway, N.Y. 6, N.Y.

## Calendar Of Events

### NEW YORK

Comradship, conviviality, dancing, refreshments, midnight buffet and loads of favors will all be featured at our NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY at 116 University Place. (Off Union Square.) Contrib. \$1.00. Militant Labor Forum.

Debate! Fri., Jan. 9 — 8:30 P.M. "Revolutionary socialists and election campaigns: Should they participate? If so, to what extent?" Betty Lux and Bert Deck. 116 University Place, near Union Square. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. Contribution 50 cents.

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## The South's Dilemma

Education is more important than segregation, say increasing numbers of white parents and students in the South. As doubts begin to assail racists over the tactic of "massive resistance," a favorable turn is registered in the struggle for integration in the schools. But the bigots are not willing to give up yet. They intend to defy the Supreme Court as long as they can get away with it. What can be done to speed final victory?

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